

Interactions Among Living Things Review

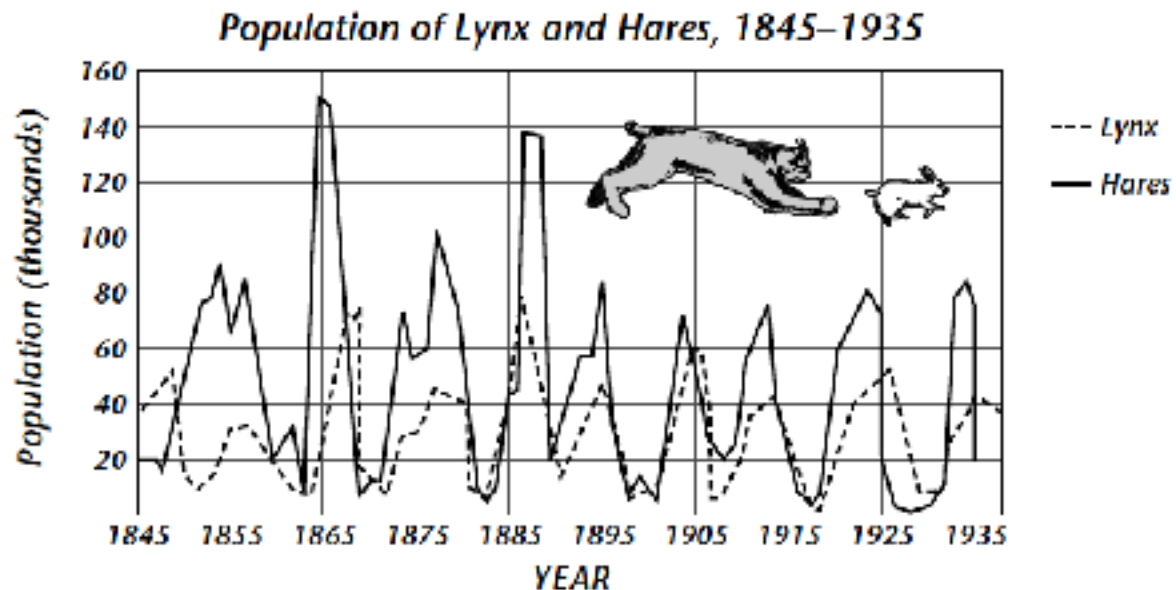
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Part 1 - Population growth over time

The graph below shows how the population sizes of lynx and snowshoe hares changed over time. Use the graph to answer the questions below.



1. When the hare population increased, what happened to the lynx population? Why?
2. How do you think an increase in the lynx population affected the hare population? Why?
3. What other factors could have caused a decrease in the hare population?
4. Predict what happened to the two populations between 1935 and 1945.

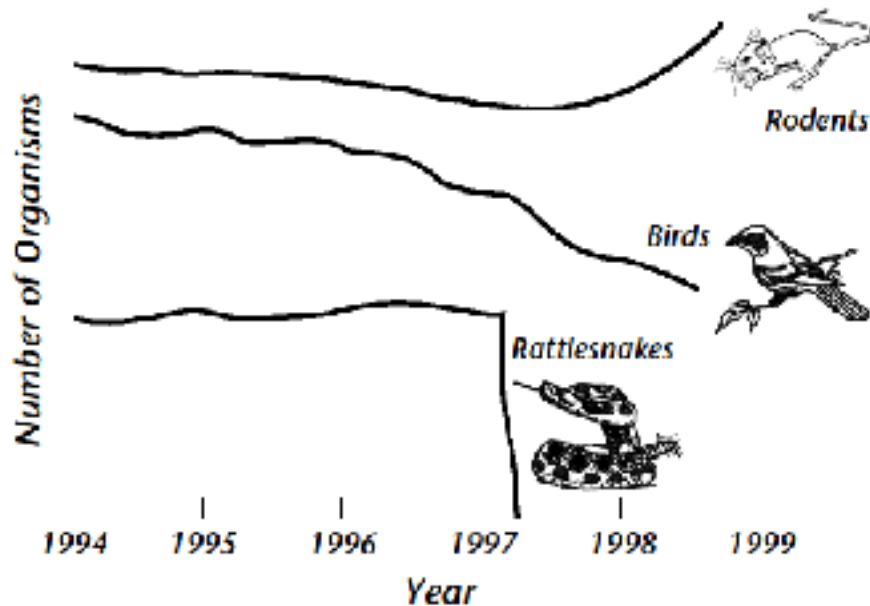
Part 2: Review

5. How does natural selection produce adaptations in a species?
6. How do adaptations enable organisms to reduce competition for food and other resources?

Part 3: Analyzing Interactions Among Organisms

In 1997, a community decided to get rid of the population of rattlesnakes in the area. The graph below shows what happened to the populations of rattlesnakes, birds, and rodents. (The rodents included animals such as mice, rats, and prairie dogs.)

Populations of Rodents, Birds, and Rattlesnakes



1. Did the bird populations appear to benefit from the elimination of the rattlesnakes? How do you know?
2. Did the rodent populations appear to benefit from the elimination of the rattlesnakes? How do you know?
3. What was the main source of food for the rattlesnakes? How can you tell?
4. Why do you think the bird populations decreased sharply after the rattlesnakes were eliminated?
5. Do you think it was a good idea for the community to eliminate the rattlesnake population? Explain your answer.